

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office action of 14 June 2004 by Examiner Kieu D. Vu.

Claims 1-6, 8-25, and 27-32 are in the case, none being allowed.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, with specific instances of indefiniteness (improper antecedent basis for various limitations) identified in each of independent claims 1, 12, 23, 31 and 32.

Applicants have amended these independent claims to correct the antecedent basis as required.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-9, 12-16, and 22-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Salas et al., U.S. Patent 6,233,600.

In the response to Applicants' arguments in the previous amendment (page 8 of the Office Action), the Examiner contends that

"Salas teaches the skin group by teaching how components (elements, controls...) of a page will be displayed on a page (col 5, lines 38-67). Since web page is rendered by interpreting HTML tags (col 1, lines 35-45), these components should have corresponding tags to indicate to the browser how to display the components."

Applicants have amended the claims to focus more precisely on applicants' concept of skin group, or theme.

Salas does teach the layout on a page of HTML, but does not teach a skin group, or theme, as a collection of a plurality of layout files and a style sheet.

Applicants introduce this concept of a skin group, or theme, which is a way of specifying a plurality of different layout files of HTML and skin components for a plurality of modes of viewing. These layout files comprising a theme are rendered to the user for the purpose of allowing the user to select and position each of the skin components for each of the skins, or layout files.

In applicants' preferred embodiment, a skin group (theme) is five skins (these five skins are referred to in applicants' specification and currently amended claims as layout files) plus a style sheet. A skin (that is, layout file) is a specific layout of skin components destined to be used in these five modes: viewing document, editing document, listing document, showing document in slides, and showing documents as headlines, together with a style sheet for determining colors and formats to use for the various skin components. These layout files (or skins) and style sheet comprise a skin group (also referred to in applicants' specification and currently amended claims as a theme), a preferred embodiment of which is set forth in Table 18.

Applicants set forth in Table 19 of their specification examples of skin components used by a user in creating the

layouts of a theme, or skin group. These skin components are composites of HTML tags specified by a user using custom tags specific to his application. When a user creates skins, he deal with skin component tags, not just HTML tags. Skin component tags are converted by the server to HTML tags when rendered.

As previously noted, Salas describes how HTML works. Applicants do use HTML. However, skin components are not merely HTML tags. Examples of such are set forth in Table 19. They are defined and rendered to users in layout files, one such file for each display mode (where they may be selected and positioned by the user.)

Examples of applicants' skin components are title (or, logo) 342, side bar (or, table of contents) 346, page content 350, action bar 344, and tool bar 348. (Specification, page 67, lines 10-14, and Table 18 at page 75ff.) Applicants tags represent components of collaboration space, and these tags are used to do the layout of that space for each of the display modes of a theme.

Further, applicants invention provides for skins, which

uses HTML to layout components of collaboration space in a user defined way. In a specific embodiment of applicants' invention, six elements or modes define a skin group, or theme: five skins, or layout files, and a style sheet, the skins being page view, page edit, list folder view, headline folder view, and slide show folder view. ("Theme" is customer friendly term given to "skin group".)
(Specification, page 69, lines 1-5, and Table 19, at page 77.)

Applicants note that in their preferred embodiment, six elements define a skin group. Applicants skin components are different from Salas' components. These Salas' components are elements and controls defined by the HTML specification. Applicants' skin components are constructed by using multiple HTML tags. That is, applicants group HTML tags to represent a logical skin component.

Salas does teach components, and does teach HTML, but does not teach skin group, nor the new collaboration component tags invented by applicants.

Applicants are not claiming that they invented HTML, components, editing or viewing pages, but rather that they

invented an edit mode and several view modes that each use a user defined layout file (that is, skin) that specifies how skin components are laid out and what styles are used.

Applicant's invention combines four basic elements as follows:

1. New collaboration component tags. (Specification, page 73, lines 14-73, page 82, line 14 to page 88, line 17.)
2. End user creation of a skin, which is a group of these component tags, arranged in HTML for each of a plurality of modes of operation. (Specification, page 69, lines 1-5, and Table 19, at page 77.)
3. End user definition of skin group, or theme, as a collection of skins for all the modes of operation (examples of modes being edit mode and view mode), together with a style which applies to all the skins in the skin group. (Specification, page 71, line 9 to page 73, line 8, and page 73, line 14 to page 74, line 15.)
4. End user importation of the skin group into

collaboration space. (Specification, page 66, lines 5-17 page 70, lines 9-14 and page 73, lines 17-18.)

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12, 23, 31, and 32, and thereby their dependent claims, to clarify what is meant by the skin group, or theme, and thus distinguish Salas.

Applicants request that claims 1-6, 8-9, 12-16, 22-25, and 27-32 be allowed.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 10-11, 17-19, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Salas and Van Der Meer, U.S. Patent 6,415,316.

Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Salas and Noguchi, U.S. Patent 5,983,184.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 1, claims 17-19 and 20-21 depend from claim 12. Claims 1 and 12 have been

amended as previously discussed to clarify the distinction with respect to Salas. Neither Noguchi nor Van Der Meer, nor their combination with Salas, teach applicants' method or system as currently amended.

Applicants request that claims 10-11, 17-19 and 20-21 be allowed.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-6, 8-25, and 27-32.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims

can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

J. Estrada, et al.

By

Shelley M Beckstrand
Shelley M Beckstrand
Reg. No. 24,886

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Shelley M Beckstrand, P.C.
Attorney at Law
314 Main Street
Owego, NY 13827

Phone: (607) 687-9913
Fax: (607) 687-7848